

Honorable Nelson A. Rockefeller  
President of the Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. President:

Pursuant to the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 552(d), I am pleased to report the experience of this Agency with requests for information under the Freedom of Information Act during calendar year 1974.

Of four such requests received and subsequently denied all were carefully considered at the time of initial review. Only one denial was appealed to a higher level of the Agency. It was decided that three of the requests had to be denied because the documents requested were properly classified pursuant to Executive Order. One request was denied because it involved an internal memorandum containing advice and recommendations from the Inspector General of the Agency to the Director on administrative policy. No fees were charged for processing these requests. During this period denials of records were made in the name of the Assistant to the Director, Angus MacLean Thuermer.

Many public requests for CIA records during 1974 were for classified intelligence documents. Such requests were levied under the provisions of Executive Order 11652 rather than the Freedom of Information Act. We expect that in calendar year 1975 most such requests will cite the Freedom of Information Act rather than the Executive Order; indeed, that trend is already evident. Our Quarterly Reports on Executive Order 11652 activity covering 1974 have been made available to the Intergovernmental Relations Subcommittee of the Senate Government Operations Committee.

Currently, new procedures responsive to the terms of the amended Act are being implemented. A copy of the newly revised Agency regulation on the handling of Freedom of Information Act requests is attached. We have attached in addition a copy of the Agency regulation as amended which was in effect in 1974.

Aside from requests for documents where the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act are clearly invoked, CIA responded to a large number of inquiries from libraries and individuals involving requests for unclassified documents, maps and other data which the Agency regularly releases through the Library of Congress, the Government Printing Office, and the National Technical Information Service, Department of Commerce. The Agency responded to over a thousand such inquiries during 1974.

In addition to reporting on calendar year 1974, I would be pleased to furnish information on changes expected to take place under the amended Act as we gain experience in responding to its new requirements.

Sincerely,

W. E. Colby  
Director

Attachments

STAT IRS: [ ] ydc (28 Feb 75)

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